

of their race or color. The words of the Pledge are as follows:

I believe that every person has worth as an individual. I believe that every person is entitled to dignity and respect, regardless of race or color. I believe that every thought and every act of racial prejudice is harmful; if it is in my thought or act, then it is harmful to me as well as to others. Therefore, from this day forward I will strive daily to eliminate racial prejudice from my thoughts and actions. I will discourage racial prejudice by others at every opportunity. I will treat all people with dignity and respect; and I will strive to honor this pledge, knowing that the world will be a better place because of my effort.

These words do not reflect any new science or ground-breaking theory, instead they reflect the time-honored principles, not always followed, that have made this country the greatest example of individual liberty and freedom the world has ever known.

The words of the Birmingham Pledge are reflective of those used by Thomas Jefferson in penning the Declaration of Independence so many years ago. Jefferson wrote that "all Men are created equal, [and] that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights." That language is clear. Thousands of citizens in Birmingham and Alabama and throughout this country and the world have recommitted themselves to these principles, and by offering this Pledge to the rest of the country, we ask everyone else to be rededicated to them, too. By signing this pledge, people make an outward showing of that commitment. Again, that is why I, on behalf of my constituents, offer this Joint Resolution. In addition to calling us to our uniquely American heritage, the words of the Birmingham Pledge also recognize Birmingham's unfortunate history as a site of significant civil rights confrontation. The Pledge conveys, as does the city's political and economic reality, that Birmingham has moved forward from that difficult time in its history to a more complete embrace of the principles embodied in this Pledge. Indeed, the city has experienced an astonishing measure of social, political, and economic progress in recent years.

More than 70,000 people around the world have seen the merit of the Birmingham Pledge and signed it because they thought it was the right thing to do. Those signing it include the President, Members of Congress, Governors, state legislators, mayors, county commissioners, city council members, clergymen, students, and the list goes on. The point is, a broad cross-section of our society has embraced the high principles conveyed in the Birmingham Pledge because they see it as a powerful tool to facilitate dialogue on racial issues and additionally as a way for people to take personal steps to achieve racial harmony and tolerance in the communities in which they live. This Resolution simply recognizes the

good work that the Birmingham Pledge has already accomplished, and the potential it has for further progress in this important area of our national and international life. In order to increase awareness of the Birmingham Pledge and to further its message, this resolution calls for the establishment of a National Birmingham Pledge Week. Setting aside such a period of time to further the message of the Birmingham Pledge and to celebrate the marked progress we have made in the area of racial harmony would be a fitting way to recognize the influence the Pledge is having on race relations in communities all across America and around the world.

Mr. BROWNBAC. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the amendment to the joint resolution be agreed to, and the joint resolution, as amended, be read the third time and passed, the amendment to the preamble and the preamble, as amended, be agreed to, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, and that any statements relating to the joint resolution be printed in the RECORD.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The amendment (No. 4347) was agreed to.

The joint resolution (H.J. Res. 102), as amended, was read the third time and passed.

The amendment to the preamble was agreed to.

The preamble, as amended, was agreed to.

#### CORRECTING ENROLLMENT OF THE BILL S. 1474

Mr. BROWNBAC. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of S. Con. Res. 156, submitted by Senator MURKOWSKI.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the concurrent resolution by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A concurrent resolution (S. Con. Res. 156) to make a correction in the enrollment of the bill S. 1474.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the concurrent resolution.

Mr. BROWNBAC. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to and the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The concurrent resolution (S. Con. Res. 156) was agreed to, as follows:

#### S. CON. RES. 156

*Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring).* That, in the enrollment of the bill (S. 1474) providing for the conveyance of the Palmetto Bend project to the State of Texas, the Secretary of the Senate shall make the following correction:

In section 7(a), insert "not" after "shall".

#### MINORITY HEALTH AND HEALTH DISPARITIES RESEARCH AND EDUCATION ACT OF 2000

Mr. BROWNBAC. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Health Committee be discharged from further consideration of S. 1880, and the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The clerk will report the bill by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 1880) to amend the Public Health Service Act to improve the health of minority individuals.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

#### AMENDMENT NO. 4349

Mr. BROWNBAC. Mr. President, Senator FRIST has a substitute amendment at the desk for himself and others.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Kansas (Mr. BROWNBAC) for Mr. FRIST, for himself, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. JEFFORDS, Mr. DODD, Mr. DEWINE, Ms. MIKULSKI, Mr. ENZI, Mr. WELLSTONE, Mr. HUTCHINSON, Mrs. MURRAY, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. AKAKA, Mr. BOND, Mr. LAUTENBERG, Mr. HATCH, Mr. CLELAND, and Mr. SESSIONS, proposes an amendment numbered 4349.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, reading of the amendment is dispensed with.

(The text of the amendment is printed in today's RECORD under "Amendments Submitted.")

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President. Every day, through personal experience or the news, we are reminded of the tremendous scientific advances that have been made in medicine; but unfortunately, millions of Americans still experience serious disparities in health outcomes as a result of ethnicity, race, gender, or a lack of access to health care services.

Recent studies have demonstrated that minority populations, in addition to having lower rates of health care access, exhibit poorer health outcomes and may have higher rates of HIV/AIDS, diabetes, infant mortality, death from cancer and heart disease, and other health problems. For example, when compared to whites, the mortality rate for prostate cancer is nearly twice that for black men; and while African Americans make up only 13 percent of our nation's population, they represented 49 percent of AIDS deaths in 1998. Further, compared to whites, the prevalence of diabetes in Hispanic individuals is nearly double. In my home state of Tennessee, African Americans have an infant mortality rate nearly three times that of white Tennesseans, and Tennessee's African Americans suffer from heart disease at one and a half times that rate of whites and are twice as likely to suffer a stroke.